

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CCO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 IO-10 NSCE-00 OC-05 USSS-00

SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 SCCT-01 OFA-01 INT-05 /091 W

----- 072260

R 100818Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9256

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

13TH AF

SUBIC NB

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: MORE KIDNAPPING OF JAPANESE IN MINDANAO

REF: MANILA 13809 AND PREVIOUS

1. JAPANESE EMBOFF HATORI CONFIRMED NOV. 7 KIDNAPPING OF SIX JAPANESE NATIONALS FROM FISHING VESSEL "SULU" OFF BASILAN ISLAND AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS. UP TO NOW, ACCORDING HATORI, JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION REGARDING WHEREABOUTS (OR WELFARE) OF VICTIMS, NOR HAS ANY DEMAND FOR RANSOM BEEN RECEIVED. JAPANESE CONSUL IN DAVAO IS WORKING ON CASE BUT HE HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE PERSONALLY TO CONTACT LOCAL COMMANDER, ADMIRAL ESPALDON, WHO IS COORDINATING EFFORTS TO RETRIEVE HOSTAGES. PRESS DESCRIBED KIDNAPPERS AS TEN HEAVILY

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ARMED MEN, BUT DID NOT SPECIFY THEY WERE MUSLIMS. VICTIMS

ARE IN EMPLOY OF PRIVATE JAPANESE FIRM (SHIGETSO FISHING CO.).
ASSAILANTS RELEASED FILIPINO CREW MEMBERS AND TOLD THEM TO
REPORT INCIDENT TO GOP AUTHORITIES.

2. COMMENTING ON NOV. 7 AP STORY OUT OF TOKYO THAT GOJ
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS ISSUED STATEMENT URGING
JAPANESE TOURISTS TO REFRAIN FROM TOURING MINDANAO, EMBOFF
SAID THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY HAD RECOMMENDED SUCH ACTION
ON NOV. 4. HE THOUGHT REPORT OF MINISTRY STATEMENT PROBABLY
CORRECT BUT NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION YET RECEIVED FROM
TOKYO. HE SAID THAT MINISTRY HAD ISSUED Milder STATEMENT
ON AUGUST 28 WARNING MINDANAO-BOUND TOURISTS TO "BE PRUDENT"
FOLLOWING EARLIER ZAMBOANGA KIDNAPPING INCIDENT OF AUG. 25.
JAPANESE EMBASSY WILL TAKE NO ACTION AT THIS END BEYOND
REPEATING MINISTRY WARNINGS TO JAPANESE CITIZENS AS
OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

3. HATORI ASKED IF US EMBASSY PLANNED ACTION TO WARN AMCITS.
EMBOFF SAID OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO MINDANAO RESTRICTED AND NON-
OFFICIALS WARNED WHEN POSSIBLE OF RISK INVOLVED IN SITUATION,
BUT THAT UP TO NOW WE HAD NOT ISSUED ANY PUBLIC WARNING.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS THIRD WELL-PUBLICIZED KIDNAPPING OF
JAPANESE IN THREE MONTHS. (OTHERS WERE ABDUCTION OF
HONEYMOONING BRIDE NEAR ZAMBOANGA AUG. 25 AND SEIZURE OF
FREIGHTER SUEHIRO MARU ON SEPT. 26. IN ADDITION THERE WAS
ABORTIVE KIDNAPPING OF JAPANESE-FRENCH COUPLE IN MARAWI
CITY IN MID-AUGUST AND UNSUCCESSFUL ABDUCTION ATTEMPT NEAR
ZAMBOANGA ON NOV. 1.) IN CONTRAST, AMERICANS HAVE BEEN
VICITIMS OF ONLY ONE INCIDENT IN AREA (KIDNAPPING OF TWO
BOISE CASCADE REPS ON AUGUST 30). WHETHER THIS SOMEWHAT
LOPSIDED CONCENTRATION ON JAPANESE AS OPPOSED TO OTHER
FOREIGNERS WILL CONTINUE REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT THERE IS
NO DOUBT THAT TRAVEL IN RURAL AREAS OF SOUTH AFFECTED
BY REBEL ACTIVITY (INCLUDING MOST REGIONS OF WESTERN
MINDANAO EXCEPT URBAN CENTERS OF CAGAYAN DE ORO AND DAVAL)
REMAINS HAZARDOUS FOR ALL FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING AMERICANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, FISHERMEN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA15716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750390-0141
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751159/aaaacar.uel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 13809
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: C NB CINCPAC
TAGS: PINS, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006